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PRESS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, James R. Burns, Assistant Special-Agent-in-Charge of the Albany District Office of the Drug Enforcement Agency, and Charles R. Pine, Special-Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, announced that **NARDINO N. RITCHIE**, 37, of Staatsburg, New York, was sentenced in Utica, New York, on November 19, 2010 by United States District Judge David N. Hurd, to 48 months imprisonment for Conspiracy to Commit Structuring, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 2 and 31 U.S.C. §5324(b)(3) and Money Laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(B)(i), 2. In addition to the term of imprisonment, **RITCHIE** was ordered to pay a \$30,000 fine, serve a three-year period of supervised release, and pay \$200 in special assessments. **RITCHIE** was also ordered to forfeit a car and a truck as part of his sentence. **RITCHIE** avoided forfeiture of his home by paying \$250,000 to the United States. The United States had previously forfeited a car and approximately \$263,996.36 in currency seized during execution of search warrants.

As part of his guilty plea, **RITCHIE** admitted:

From early 2005 through approximately April 2007, **RITCHIE** possessed with intent to distribute between approximately 700 and 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, which was delivered to him by others at his residence located at 20 Chaucer Road, Staatsburgh, New York and elsewhere.

During 2006 and 2007, **RITCHIE** used the proceeds from his marijuana distribution business, including United States currency, to purchase a commercial building located at 239 Ulster Avenue, Saugerties, New York, a 2007 Toyota Camry, and a 2007 Toyota Tundra. **RITCHIE** knew that these transactions were designed to disguise the nature, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of his marijuana distribution business.

In addition, **RITCHIE** conspired with others to structure these transactions to avoid, as required by law, having them reported to the Internal Revenue Service. For example, in connection with the purchase of the commercial building, **RITCHIE**, using co-conspirators as nominees, purchased 27 postal money orders from 9 different post offices on a single day in amounts less than \$3,000 to evade the transaction reporting requirements.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Agency and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

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